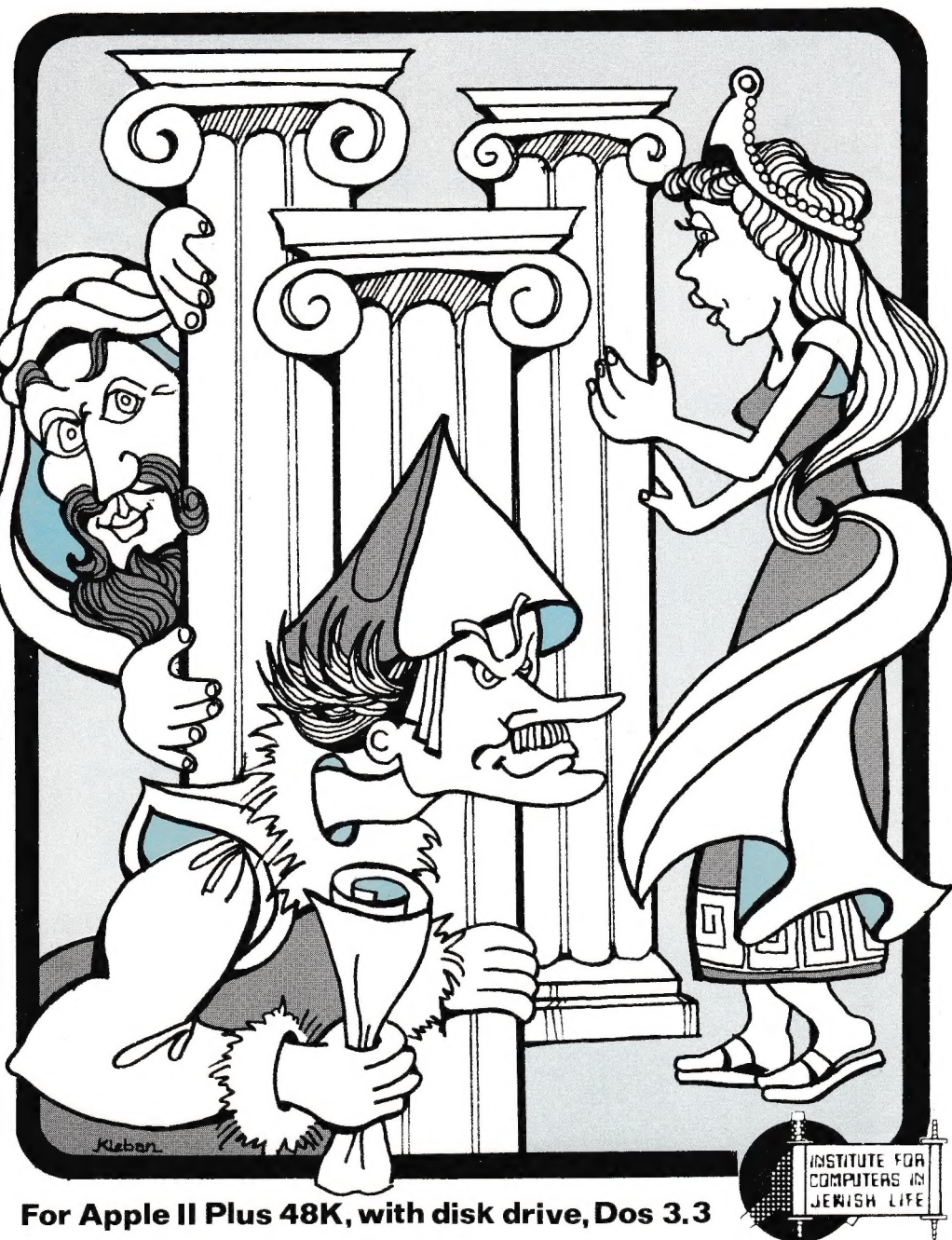


Purimaze

AND OTHER EXCITING GAMES



For Apple II Plus 48K, with disk drive, Dos 3.3

INSTITUTE FOR
COMPUTERS IN
JEWISH LIFE

PURIMAZE

*INCLUDES 2 EXCITING PURIM GAMES --
HANG HAMAN AND THE NEW, MYSTERIOUS
PURIMAZE

*BE ALERT!! THE MYSTERIOUS LABYRINTH IS
FULL OF SURPRISES.

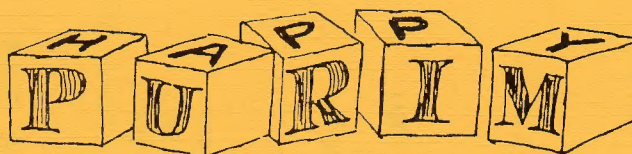
*RACE THE CLOCK TO FIGURE OUT THE HIDDEN
WORDS OF HANG HAMAN OR ENTER YOUR OWN
LIST OF WORDS TO CHALLENGE YOUR FRIENDS
1 TO 4 PLAYERS

*THIS BROCHURE CONTAINS A BRIEF SUMMARY
OF THE HISTORY AND OBSERVANCES OF PURIM.
THE GLOSSARY INCLUDED, 'A TO Z OF PURIM',
WILL GIVE YOU A WINNING EDGE WHEN YOU PLAY PURIMAZE

*COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLAYING THE GAME
WILL APPEAR ON YOUR COMPUTER SCREEN WHEN
YOU BOOT THE DISK.

INSTITUTE FOR COMPUTERS IN JEWISH LIFE

845 N. MICHIGAN AVE. *SUITE 843
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611
(312)-787-7856



Twenty-five hundred years ago, the Jews were living under the rule of the Persians. The Persian king, Ahasuerus (Xerxes I), governed the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces of his empire from the capital city of Shushan. His large and luxurious court included Vashti, the proud queen; Haman, the overbearing Prime Minister; and Mordecai, leader of the Jews and a palace official. Vashti was dethroned when she refused to obey the king's order to appear at one of his drinking banquets.

A new queen was sought among the most beautiful maidens of the land, and the one chosen and crowned was Esther, the cousin and adopted daughter of Mordecai. Esther, on the advice of her cousin did not at first reveal her Jewish identity. Meanwhile, Haman rose in favor with Ahasuerus and was appointed Prime Minister. Inflated with a sense of his new-found importance, he demanded that all the courtiers bow to him whenever he appeared. This, Mordecai the Jew refused to do. Haman became so incensed that he planned to exterminate not only Mordecai but also all of his people, the Jews. With this in mind, he went to the king, and representing the Jews as rebellious subjects, received royal permission to arrange for their massacre. The day of their doom — Adar 13 — was fixed by the casting of lots (*purim*).

Gloom fell upon the Jews of Shushan and of the provinces. Mordecai seized upon the one hope that Esther would intercede with the king in behalf of her people. He asked Esther to do so, and, after fasting and prayer, she approached the king. Esther arranged for a banquet to be attended by the king, Haman and herself to provide an opportunity to expose Haman's perfidy. At this banquet, she pleaded that her life and those of her people be spared. She then revealed Haman's villainous plot, and the king ordered him hanged on the very gallows on which Haman had

planned to hang Mordecai. Ahasuerus authorized the Jews to defend themselves, and on the appointed day they routed their enemies. On the morrow, they celebrated their victory and called the day *Purim*, in allusion to the lots which Haman had cast.

Mordecai and Esther subsequently ordained that Jews in every generation should joyously observe Purim to commemorate the miraculous redemption of their people.

Customs and Observances

The most important observance of Purim is the reading of the *Megillah*, the Hebrew handwritten parchment scroll of the Book of Esther, on the evening of Purim as well as on the following morning. Both men and women are obliged to hear the

reading of the *Megillah*, and children, too, should hear the story. Following the Maariv service on Purim eve, the *Megillah* is brought to the reading table, unrolled, and chanted in full. As the reader encounters and chants the name of Haman, which occurs 53 times, the children respond by making a joyous din with their noisemakers or *groggers*. All in all, the synagogue on Purim has an exceptional air of gaiety and merry-making.

The *Al ha-Nissim* prayer, thanking God for the miracle of Purim, is included in the *shemoneh esreh* at all Purim services as well as in the grace after meals. At the morning service, the Torah reading recounts the story of the attack of Amalek (the traditional ancestor of Haman) on the Jews. Other customs, made obligatory by Jewish

law, are the sending of gifts — usually of Purim delicacies — (*mishloah monet*) to friends and the distribution of charity to the poor. On Purim afternoon, a family feast, known as the *Purim Seudah* is an important feature of the celebration.

The Meaning of Purim Today

Purim commemorates the victory over Haman, prototype of all the persecutors of the Jews, of whatever country in whatever century. Its story affirms the indestructibility of the Jewish people and directs attention to the miracle of our eternal survival. Purim affirms that where there is faith in God, there follows inevitably as the day follows the night, the same "light and joy and gladness and honor" that our fathers experienced on the first Purim long ago.

The A to Z of Purim

Adar — The twelfth month in the Jewish calendar which falls in late February or March. Purim occurs on the fourteenth day of Adar.

Adloyada — A word recently coined in Israel to designate the Purim carnival. The name is derived from the talmudic saying, "One should drink 'ad d'lo yada' (till one knows not) the difference between 'Baruch Mordecai' (Blessed be Mordecai) and 'Arur Haman' (Cursed be Haman)."

Ahasuerus — The king of Persia who plays an important role in the Book of Esther. He is usually identified as Xerxes I (485-465 B.C.E.).

Al ha-Nissim (For the miracles) — A special prayer included in the Eighteen Benedictions and the Grace after Meals on Purim and Hanukkah.

Esther — The heroine of the Purim story, originally called Hadassah.

Fast of Esther — See Taanit Esther.

Grogger — Noisemaker used on Purim in the synagogue during the reading of the *Megillah* whenever the name of Haman is mentioned.

Hadassah (Myrtle) — See Esther.

Haman — Minister of King Ahasuerus and villain of the Purim story.

Hamantash — A three cornered Purim pastry filled with poppyseed. It derives its name from a combination of the two German words — Mohn (poppyseed) and Tash (pocket). The original name Mohntash was later punned as Hamantash.

Megillah (Scroll) — Usually refers to *Megillat Esther* (Scroll of Esther) read on Purim during the evening and morning services.

Mishloah Monet (Sending of Gifts) — The practice of sending gifts to friends and to the poor on Purim.

Mordecai — The hero of the Purim story and the cousin of Esther.

Purim (Lots) — The Feast of Lots or the Feast of Esther. The name is derived from the fact that Haman cast lots to discover the day most favorable to his plan for destroying the Jews.

Purimspieler (Purim player) — Purim players or actors who would go from house to house to dance, sing and produce episodes of the Book of Esther.

Seudah (Meal) — The joyous observance of Purim is culminated in a festive meal at the conclusion of the day.

Shabbat Zakor (Sabbath of Remembrance) — The Sabbath before Purim when the portion of the Maftir that is read begins with the words Zakor . . . Amalek (Remember . . . Amalek). Haman is considered a descendant of Amalek.

Shalah Monet — See Mishloah Monet.

Shushan — The capital of ancient Persia where the main events of the Book of Esther occurred.

Shushan Purim — The day following Purim, Adar the fifteenth. The holiday was celebrated on this day in Shushan as final triumph was achieved in that city then.

Taanit Esther (Fast of Esther) — A fast day which occurs on the day before Purim, Adar the thirteenth.

Vashti — Queen of King Ahasuerus, deposed for refusing to show herself to his guests.

Zeresh — The wife of Haman.

